REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated April 7, 2006. Claims 3 to 6, 8 to 20, 22 to 25 and 27 are in the application, with Claims 1, 2, 7, 26, 28 and 29 having been cancelled herein. Claims 3 and 22 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 3 to 6, 14 to 16, 22 to 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,324,691 (Gazdik); Claims 1, 2, 28 and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Gazdik in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,788,800 (Carr); Claims 7 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Gazdik in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,405,362 (Shih); Claims 8, 9 and 17 to 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Gazdik in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,121,967 (Foster); Claims 12 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Gazdik in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,460,076 (Srinivasan); Claims 10 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Gazdik in view of Foster, and further in view of Shih; and Claim 27 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Gazdik in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,711,672 (Redford). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

Turning to the specific language of the claims, independent Claim 3 defines an information processing device comprising a communication unit adapted to communicate with a server via a network, and a portable-information-storage-medium connection unit to which a portable information storage medium is connectable. The portable information storage medium stores information identifying software to be acquired via the network from the server, and has a low capacity for storing the information without storing the software. The device also comprises a detecting unit adapted to detect whether the portable information storage medium is connected by the portable-information-storage-medium connection unit, a reading unit adapted to read the information identifying the software when the connection of the portable information

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storage medium is detected by the detecting unit, a sending unit adapted to send the information identifying the software read by the reading unit to the server through the communication unit, an information transfer unit adapted to automatically download the software from the server into an internal storage medium, and a software storage unit adapted to store the software into a software storage area of the internal storage medium, such that the software is automatically downloaded into the internal storage medium. The device also comprises a software management unit adapted to manage the software stored in the software storage area, an unloading detecting unit adapted to detect an unload of the portable information storage medium, and a deleting unit adapted to delete the software stored into the software storage area when the unload is detected by the unloading detecting unit.

Independent Claim 22 is an information processing method that corresponds generally to the device of Claim 3.

The applied references are not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of independent Claims 3 and 22, and in particular, are not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the features of a portable-information-storage-medium connection unit to which a portable information storage medium is connectable, wherein the portable information storage medium stores information identifying software to be acquired via a network from a server, and has a low capacity for storing the information without storing the software.

In contrast, Gazdik is directed to generating a software distribution media package. (abstract of Gazdik). First, an "original distribution media package" is provided on "a set of diskettes, a removable disk or a CD-ROM or DVD disk." (column 3, lines 31 to 33). An internet download option is provided on the original distribution media package, so that the user can "receive the most recent versions of components belonging to his software suite." (column 3, lines 34 to 36).

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While Gazdik may disclose internet download of updates to a software suite, Gazdik's internet download option is provided along with the original distribution of software on a CD-ROM, DVD disk, etc. . . ., and thus is not seen to disclose or to suggest a portable information storage medium that stores information identifying software to be acquired via a network from a server, and has a low capacity for storing the information without storing the software.

The remaining applied references, namely Carr, Shih, Foster, Srinivasan and Redford, either alone or in any permissible combination, are not seen to cure the deficiencies of Gazdik. Accordingly, independent Claims 3 and 22 are believed to be allowable.

The other claims in the application are dependent from the independent claims discussed above and therefore are believed to be allowable over the applied references for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa,

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